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Press Item for the DCI

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(DOUGLAS)

WASHINGTON--HOUSE INVESTIGATORS SAID TODAY THEIR INQUIRY INTO IMPEACHMENT CHARGES AGAINST SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS HAS BEEN HOBBLING BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CIA.

A HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH HAS CONDUCTED THE FOUR-MONTH-OLD INVESTIGATION ASKED BOTH AGENCIES SOME TIME AGO FOR INFORMATION IN THEIR FILES ABOUT DOUGLAS. BUT JUDICIARY CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CELLER, D-N.Y., SAID: "WE HAVE NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE INFORMATION. WE HAVE BEEN VERY UNSUCCESSFUL."

REP. JACK BROOKS, D-TEX., A SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER, SAID THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUPPLIED SOME INFORMATION "THAT DIDN'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING" AND HAS NOT ANSWERED REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL DATA.

"THEY DON'T LIKE HIM, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON HIM AND THEY ARE AFRAID TO SAY SO," SAID BROOKS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S MANDATE EXPIRED AUG. 24, WHILE THE HOUSE WAS IN RECESS. CELLER REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER IT WOULD SEEK AN EXTENSION, RECOMMEND DROPPING THE INVESTIGATION OR PROPOSE SOME OTHER COURSE.

HE SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD REPORT TO THE FULL JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING, PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

"THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS JUST STALLING," SAID REP. LOUIS C. WYMAN, R-N.H., ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE DOUGLAS CRITICS. "THEY HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO CONDUCT A MEANINGFUL INVESTIGATION."

LAST MONTH CELLER SAID HIS SUBCOMMITTEE COULD NOT COMPLETE THE PRELIMINARY STAGE OF ITS WORK UNTIL IT HAD THE REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND CIA.

NEITHER HE NOR OTHER INVESTIGATORS HAS EXPLAINED FULLY THE CIA'S INTEREST IN THE CASE. THEY HAVE SAID THEY ARE SEEKING INFORMATION FROM THE CIA ABOUT ALLEGED GAMBLING INTERESTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BY REPUTED ASSOCIATION OF DOUGLAS, BUT GAMBLING IS NOT AN ACTIVITY NORMALLY WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

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